

did not prevent him from praising the settler and the logger as pioneers of civilization; neither did it stop him from expressing disappointment in the Pilgrim Fathers for their lack of adventurousness in geographical exploration, especially in comparison with the French founders of Port Royal.

Naturally, the law of succession applies to the spiritual realm as well. Far from preaching simplicity as an end in itself or praising manual labor for its allegedly intrinsic value, Thoreau saw both as means of achieving the freedom a philosopher needed to develop spiritual complexity. More than anything else, Thoreau believed that civilization was advanced by philosophers, that is, “awakened” individuals who have reached, through the flowing vest of appearances, the very heart of reality. Thus, it was the philosopher, not a “mere John or Jonathan,” that pointed the way to the splendid American future. At times, however, I felt that Schneider’s use of transcendentalist thought was too slight to counterbalance the book’s naturalist/sociological framework. Still, this is a minor point and it in no way detracts from the worth of Schneider’s excellent and highly readable research.

I believe *Civilizing Thoreau* has the potential to reconfigure the field of Thoreau studies for years to come.

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Jon C. Teaford, *The 20th Century American City: Problems, Promises, and Reality*. Revised Edition. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2016. 240 pages. ISBN: 978-1-4214-2038-7.

The 20th Century American City, 3rd Edition is an updated version of a 1986 text in the field of Urban Studies. Teaford’s original text traced the history of U.S. cities decade by decade from the 1900s to the 1980s. The second edition, from 1993, added a new chapter on U.S. cities from 1980 to 1990. This new edition, published in 2016, expands that last chapter and adds a new chapter looking at the same cities during the 2000s.

In the introduction, Teaford lays out an argument that throughout the 20th century, U.S. cities grew quickly, developed problems and, despite the best intentions of urban designers, never really solved them. Rather, according to Teaford, U.S. metropolises have little cohesive design and have evolved in a relatively haphazard way. The book proceeds as a historical overview of U.S. cities, providing an outline of each decade with some more extend-

ed examples within each chapter. Teaford doesn't really revisit his initial argument directly. Rather, he provides a historical summary with limited commentary in each chapter.

This slim volume seems perfectly designed for use in an undergraduate course in American studies or American history with an interest in cities. At about 200 pages of total text, each of the eight chapters is relatively short and readable in a single sitting. This brevity comes at a cost. Each chapter covers a decade or two of the century and, by necessity, can only touch on the defining characteristics of cities in that time period. The chapter on 1900-1920, for example, refers to women working in downtown districts as sales clerks and office workers. It discusses wages, blue collar vs. white collar work, and makes a quick reference to prostitution before sliding into the development of the skyscraper. The discussion is only a couple of paragraphs long and cannot, given the wide-ranging topics in the book, go into much detail, but I was left wanting more exploration into this idea. That feeling, of wanting more, was consistent through the book. Just as Teaford introduces an interesting idea, he must immediately move onto the next topic. In contrast, some topics seem to capture the author's imagination and he spends more time on them. For example, in the same chapter where he spends paragraphs on women working downtown, Teaford spends pages describing the indulgent lifestyles of the wealthy citizens of New York's Fifth Avenue and Chicago's Gold Coast.

The book careens across the geography of the U.S. An early discussion of municipal politics veers from New York City to Seattle to Boston to San Francisco. Students unfamiliar with the vast differences between regions in the United States may be tempted to think that these cities were all connected in some way or that they shared a cultural heritage. The analysis assumes similarities without fully exploring differences between the various metro areas. Teaford relies especially heavily on Chicago and New York as examples of the American city. His other examples focus mostly on the northern cities of Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Boston, Philadelphia, and so on. He touches on Los Angeles and San Francisco but largely ignores the southern and western cities such as Houston, Phoenix, San Diego or Atlanta. This approach is more appropriate when Teaford discusses federal policies that affected all cities, such as housing policy or the programs implemented after the Great Depression. But, for other matters, it ignores the uneven growth of cities across the U.S., the

diverse types of cities in different regions, and the different ways state-level policies affected them.

Because of the surface treatment of topics, the assumption of urban similarity across the U.S. and the lack of coverage of some issues, this book should not be viewed as an in-depth analysis, but as an overview. I have an additional criticism regarding the choice of citation style. Teaford uses a “bibliographical essay” at the end of the book with no in-text citations. While this style might initially seem appealing for undergraduates because it eliminates distractions in the text, adding to readability, it makes it very difficult to assess Teaford’s research, including the sources for direct quotes or statistics in his book.

The new chapters update the text and help to make it more relevant to classes and students interested in how the history of U.S. urban development has contributed to current urban conditions. The most recent chapter also introduces the idea of new urbanism and smart growth, which are popular theories in urban studies. The text feels like it ends somewhat abruptly, though. The last chapter is simply more of the historical description that dominates the rest of the book. There is no concluding chapter that returns to his initial argument or points the reader in a new direction.

Overall, I found Teaford’s updated *The 20th Century American City* to be very readable, if somewhat glancing in its approach. I can see an audience for this book in some undergraduate classrooms. However, it is not robust enough to be the primary text for a class. It seems most appropriate as a supplement to some other set of texts. In fact, individual chapters of Teaford’s text would be useful as a background overview of what was happening in U.S. cities to provide context for other material.

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Richard Alan Ryerson, *John Adams’s Republic: The One, the Few, and the Many*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2016. 555 pages. ISBN: 978-1-4214-1922-0.

This is a majestic book on the republican political thought of one of the key figures of the American Revolution and the second President of the United States, John Adams (1735-1826). In its most classical mode, republicanism